

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Killeen Christian Broadcasting Corp.)	FRN: 0020256129
Licensee of Station KPLE-CD)	NAL/Acct. No. 201441420024
Killeen, Texas)	Facility ID No. 168452
)	

FORFEITURE ORDER

Adopted: September 23, 2014**Released: September 23, 2014**

By the Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this *Forfeiture Order*, issued pursuant to Sections 0.61(f)(1) and 1.80(a)(1) and (2) of the Commission's rules,¹ we find that Killeen Christian Broadcasting Corp., licensee of Station KPLE-CD, repeatedly violated Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii) by failing to file timely with the Commission the Station's Children's Television Programming Reports. Based on our review of the facts and circumstances, we find the Licensee liable for a forfeiture of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000).

II. BACKGROUND

2. The Video Division issued a Notice of Apparent Liability ("NAL") for Forfeiture on July 18, 2014.² The NAL notified the Licensee that the station's failure to file its Children's Television Programming Reports in a timely manner constituted apparent willful or repeated violations of Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii) of the Commission's Rules.³ The Division concluded that the Licensee was apparently liable for a forfeiture of \$6,000. In a timely response dated August 18, 2014, the Licensee did not attempt to rebut the noticed violations but requested that the proposed forfeitures be reduced or cancelled.⁴

III. DISCUSSION

3. The Commission is authorized to license radio and television broadcast stations and is responsible for enforcing the Commission's rules and applicable statutory provisions concerning operation of those stations. Under section 503(b)(1) of the Act, any person who is determined by the Commission to have willfully or repeatedly failed to comply with any provision of the Act or any rule, regulation, or order issued by the Commission shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty.⁵ In order to impose a forfeiture penalty, the

¹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.61(f)(1), 1.80(a)(1) & (2).

² *Killeen Christian Broadcasting Corp.*, DA 14-1008 (Jul. 18, 2014).

³ 47 C.F.R. § 73.3526(e)(11)(iii).

⁴ Licensee Response to Notice of Apparent Liability ("Licensee Response") (Aug. 18, 2014).

⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(1) (A) & (B); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(a)(1) & (2). The Commission may assess a forfeiture

Commission must issue a notice of apparent liability, the notice must be received, and the person against whom the notice has been issued must have an opportunity to show, in writing, why no such penalty should be imposed.⁶ The Commission will then issue a forfeiture order if it finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the person has violated the Act or a Commission rule.⁷ As we set forth in greater detail below, we conclude that the Licensee is liable for a forfeiture for repeated violations of Section 73.3526(e)(11)(iii) of the Commission's rules. We ultimately conclude that the forfeiture amount should be reduced from \$6,000 to \$3,000.

4. The Community Broadcasters Protection Act requires that Class A television stations comply with all rules applicable to full-power television stations except for those rules that could not apply for technical or other reasons.⁸ The Commission rules establish that Class A licensees must (i) offer informational and educational children's programming; (ii) prepare and place in a public inspection file quarterly Children's Television Programming Reports; and (iii) electronically file those reports with the Commission.⁹

5. Commission policy establishes a base forfeiture amount of \$3,000 for failure to file a required form.¹⁰ In determining the appropriate forfeiture amount, the Commission may adjust the base amount upward or downward by considering the factors in Section 503(b)(2)(E), which include "the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and such other matters as justice may require." In the NAL, the Commission proposed a forfeiture amount of \$6,000.

6. The Licensee does not dispute that it failed file certain Children's Television Programming Reports with the Commission in a timely manner as described in the NAL. These deficiencies, regardless of the cause, constitute repeated violations of the relevant Commission rules.

7. Licensee argues that it cannot afford to pay the forfeiture.¹¹ The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claimed inability to pay unless the licensee submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices ("GAAP"); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the licensee's current financial

order for violations that are merely repeated, and not willful. *See, e.g., Callais Cablevision, Inc., Grand Isle, Louisiana*, Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture, 16 FCC Rcd 1359, 1362, (2001) (issuing a Notice of Apparent Liability for a cable television operator's repeated violations of the Commission's signal leakage rules). "Repeated" means that the act was committed or omitted more than once. *Southern California Broadcasting Co.*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 6 FCC Rcd 4387, 4388 (1991).

⁶ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(f).

⁷ *See, e.g., SBC Communications, Inc.*, Forfeiture Order, 17 FCC Rcd 7589, 7591 (2002).

⁸ Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999, Pub. L. No. 106-113, 113 Stat. Appendix I at pp. 1501A-594-1501A-598 (1999), *codified at* 47 U.S.C. § 336(f).

⁹ *Establishment of a Class A Television Service*, MM Docket No. 00-10, Report and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 6355, 6366 (2000); 47 C.F.R. § 73.3526 (a)(2) & (e)(11)(iii).

¹⁰ *See Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines*, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 17087, 17113-15 (1997), *recon. denied*, 15 FCC Rcd 303 (1999); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(b)(4).

¹¹ Licensee Response at 3-7.

status. Typically, the Commission uses gross revenue as the primary measuring stick by which it evaluates a licensee's ability to pay.¹² Here, the Licensee provided financial documentation in an effort to support its argument that it cannot pay the forfeiture amount. We conclude that the Licensee has not made an adequate showing to demonstrate an inability to pay the forfeiture.

8. Licensee further argues that the discretionary factors outlined in Section 503(b)(2)(E) favor a reduction in the forfeiture amount.¹³ We agree. Given the unique circumstances of this case, we believe that the Licensee's history of compliance, coupled with its self-reporting of the violations, mean that the forfeiture should be reduced. In the NAL, the Video Division proposed a forfeiture amount of \$6,000. The Commission exercises its discretion here to reduce the proposed forfeiture \$3,000.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

9. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED THAT, pursuant to section 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61(f)(1) and 1.80(a)(1)&(2) of the Commission's rules,¹⁴ Killeen Christian Broadcasting Corporation SHALL FORFEIT to the United States the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for repeatedly violating 47 C.F.R. 73.3526(e)(11)(iii).

10. In the event that the Licensee wishes to revert Station KPLE-CD to low power television status, the Licensee need only notify us of this election and request a change in status for the station.¹⁵ Should the Licensee revert the station to low power status, the Licensee would no longer be liable for the forfeiture amount described herein.

11. Payment of the forfeiture shall be made in the manner provided for in Section 1.80 (h) of the Commission's rules within thirty (30) calendar days after the release date of this Forfeiture Order. If the forfeiture is not paid within the period specified, the case may be referred to the U.S. Department of Justice for enforcement of the forfeiture pursuant to Section 504(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The Licensee shall send electronic notification of the payment to Evan Morris at evan.morris@fcc.gov on the date payment is made.

12. The payment must be made by check or similar instrument, wire transfer, or credit card, and must include the NAL/Account number and FRN referenced above. Regardless of the form of payment, a completed FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice) must be submitted. When completing FCC Form 159, enter the Account Number in block number 23A (call sign/other ID) and enter the "FORF" in block number 24A (payment type code). Payment by check or money order must be made payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission. Such payments (along with the completed Form 159) must be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 979088, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or sent via overnight mail to U.S. Bank – Government Lockbox #979088, SL-MO-C2-GL, 1005 Convention Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63101.

13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT a copy of this FORFEITURE ORDER shall

¹² *San Jose State University*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 5908 (2011).

¹³ Licensee Response at 2, 8-11.

¹⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b); 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.61(f)(1) & 1.80(a)(1)&(2).

¹⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 73.6001(d).

be sent by Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested to Killeen Christian Broadcasting Corporation, 502 E. Elms Road, Killeen, Texas, 76542 and to its counsel, Mark J. Prak and Elizabeth Spainhour, Brooks Pierce et al., Wells Fargo Capitol Center, Suite 1600, 150 Fayetteville Street, Post Office Box 1800, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27602.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Barbara A. Kreisman
Chief, Video Division
Media Bureau